

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1255

Suffolk, Virginia 23434

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July Meeting The July meeting of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society will be held Sunday, July 13, 1969. The meeting will consist of a boat trip up the Nansemond River. Dr. Reginald Holland, president of our Society, will point out sites of interest. The trip is for members and invited guest. The price is \$2.00 per person. There are still a few spaces available. If you would like to go, please send your check to Box 1255 no later than Saturday, July 12, 1969. Those going will meet at the Suffolk High School parking lot at 1:00 P. M. Please be prompt. We will try to pool cars in so far as possible so there will not be too many cars to park at Crittenden. The trip will last about five hours. Therefore, if you want anything to eat or drink, please bring your own. Please come and support your Society as we have to pay for the boat regardless of how many people go.

New Books The Comp'ny by H. Temple Crittenden, 246 pgs, \$8.00. McClain Printing Co., Parsons, West Virginia 26287. The story of the Surry, Sussex and Southampton Railway and the Surry Lumber Co. This book tells of the birth-to-death history of a Southside narrow-gauger, its hard years and good times, its diminutive trains echoing their whistles out of the swampy bottomlands.

The Dismal Swamp and Lake Drummond, Early Recollections, by Robert Arnold of Suffolk, Virginia. First published in 1888 by Evening Telegram Print, Norfolk, Virginia. Reprinted by Johnson Publishing Co., 1969. Available from Lucy Garnett, The Shack, Route 460, Suffolk, Virginia 53 pgs. \$3.90. Illustrated by Porte Crayon. Chapter 1 - "The Dismal Swamp, of which but little is known, is a large body of dense woods, being situated and laying in Nansemond County, Virginia, and the County of Gates, in North Carolina. It contains, by survey, about 100,000 acres. I have been told by H. E. Smith, Esq., our county treasurer, that 45,000 acres were listed in the County of Nansemond. It is thickly set with Juniper, Cyrpress, and other timber, which makes it very valuable. It came into the possession of General George Washington, and after the Revolutionary War a company known as the Dismal Swamp Land Company was formed and arrangements made to manufacture the timber; hands were put in the Swamp and it was regularly opened. A large quantity of timber was manufactured, and Washington found it necessary to find some outlet for it, which could only be done by a canal or Ditch. He commenced at the eastern boundry of the farm, known as "Soldier's Hope," which belonged to Col. Josiah Riddick, on the northwest of the Lake, and running west to what is called the Reed

farm, on the Edenton road, about seven miles from Suffolk. A large quantity of Juniper timber was brought through this ditch, which was hauled to the Nansemond River for shipment."

Old Homes The Old Homes and Sites Committee would like to know of any old homes in Suffolk and Nansemond County. They would like to publish a brochure of Revolutionary period homes in connection with the coming Bicentennial of 1976. If you have any information on any homes, please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Thanks The Society would like to thank Mr. Jesse A. Harrell for the old pictures which he gave the Society. His interest and help is very much appreciated.

In 1867 in Suffolk Peter B. Prentis, Clerk of Court, received three cents for each marriage recorded.

Dr. Lemuel C. Holland attended smallpox patients at the pest house.

A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore, Edited by B. A. Botkin, pg. 489 to 490. Ninety-four year old Tom Hester of Suffolk, who had begun at Manassas in the Confederate Army and ended at Appomattox with the Union forces saw it "jus' as it happened". Tom Hester had served the Southern troops as mule tender until a wild bullet at the first battle of Manassas "passed clean through both cheeks an' carried three teeth wid it." Picked up by a Union ambulance crew, he had stayed on in the Army of the Potomac as ambulance tender under Capt. Bob Durham, supply master. Tom Hester knows that Grant and Lee met under the apple tree because he was "right dere lookin' at dem."

"Gen'ral Lee tipped his hat furst, an' den Gen'ral Grant tipped hissen. Gen'ral Lee got on a new uniform wid gold braid an' lots of buttons, but Gen'ral Grant got on an old blue coat dat's so dirty it look black. Dy stood dere talkin' bout half an hour, an' den dey shake hands an' us what was watchin' know dat Lee done give up. Den Gen'ral Lee got on his horse an' Gen'ral Grant got on hissen, an' Gen'ral Lee tipped his hat, an' Gen'ral Grant tipped hissen, an' Gen'ral Lee rode over to de rebel side, an' Gen'ral Grant rode over to our side, an' de war was over.

"De nex' day I went out dere to cut a branch off dat tree, but dere wasn't no sign of it - jus' a hole in de groun'. De soldiers done cut dat apple tree down an' taken it fo' souveneess, Yessir, ev'y las' little piece of it, even de roots."

Edited by H. R. Gray, Jr.

Assisted by Marion J. Watson